

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

9. (New) In a fuel injection valve for internal combustion engines, with a housing (1) that contains a moving valve element (12) whose movement counter to the elastic force of a spring element (30) controls the fuel supply to the combustion chamber (6) of the engine, the improvement wherein the spring element (30) comprises a cylindrical sleeve having a longitudinal axis (14), openings (45) at a number of locations in the wall of the sleeve, the openings (45) being separate from one another to allow the spring element (30) to be elastically deformed in the direction of the longitudinal axis (14).

10. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 9, wherein the openings (45) in the wall of the spring element (30) essentially extend in a radial plane of the longitudinal axis (14) of the spring element (30).

11. (New) The fuel injection valve according to claim 10, wherein two similar openings (45) lie in a common radial plane of the spring element (30), the openings (45) in each common radial plane being separated from one another by connecting pieces (48).